

Wednesday September 11 1996

Table of international exchange rates for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, Australia, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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46,655

The saving of the Oxo building

A cube with a view

G2 with European weather

How the lottery ruined one man's life

Outrageous fortune

G2 cover story

Society

Eco-wars and the CIA

G2 pages 10/11

Papers shows British officials knew of Nazi plunder despite Rifkind denial

Shame of the Swiss



The Government's disclosures over missing gold have fuelled controversy about its whereabouts and why it has not been returned to its owners

Union fury over Labour policy fiasco

Seumas Milne Labour Editor

Defining moment

LABOUR was plunged into another policy fiasco yesterday as David Blunkett's schemes to curb public sector strikes were repeatedly revised and TUC leaders raged that their conference had been hijacked by half-baked electoral posturing.

would not cover pay disputes. In the public sector, whether or not there was binding arbitration, the Government would "have the last say".

4pm: Crisis meeting of Labour's employment team in Blackpool.

4.30pm: Mr Blair arrives at Blackpool's Pembroke Hotel and reverses Mr Blunkett's commitment not to legislate on re-ballooning.

5pm: Mr Blunkett attempts to smooth ruffled feathers at a TUC fringe meeting by emphasising that no-strike, binding arbitration arrangements would not be compulsory.

He judges the legislation issue. Last night, Mr Monks said "significant" new offer.

2.30pm: In TV interview in Blackpool Mr Blunkett says his binding arbitration plans

Leader comment, page 8; Spin doctors accused, page 2

Banks cling onto £4bn looted from Jewish victims

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government yesterday bowed to pressure to divulge the secrets of Nazi loot by disclosing that gold worth nearly \$4 billion at today's prices was deposited in Swiss banks, only 12 per cent of which was recovered by the wartime Allies.



chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, yesterday welcomed the FO's report but said it raised as many questions as it answered, particularly about gold melted down from Jews' possessions.

as well as looted Nazi gold were resmelted into ingots marked with the Reichsbank stamp, concealing its origins.

A Treasury official referred in 1946 to "the unalterable attitude of the Swiss that there was no legal basis which they would admit as conveying an Allied right to German assets in Switzerland". He added: "In the case of Switzerland, the claims against Germany were very large and, on balance, the Allied negotiators had every reason to be satisfied that the best terms possible were made."

FO officials repeated yesterday that the Allies had "no legal right over the Swiss". The report reveals that during postwar negotiations a Mr Hirs of the Swiss National Bank had let slip the \$500 million figure, far greater than the Allies had assumed.

Yet the report says that as early as 1945 the Government estimated that the Nazis had looted gold worth at least \$50 million. British intelligence had closely monitored German looting of gold during the war, but, it notes, "too tight a squeeze on Swiss-German trade might result in German occupation of Switzerland, or in pushing Swit-

zerland further into the Axis camp, both to the detriment of Britain's own war effort". The report also refers to British officials ignoring claims on the gold by individuals as opposed to governments occupied by Nazi Germany on the grounds that "private claims... might run into many thousands".

The 250 million Swiss francs was paid in gold into special US Federal Reserve and Bank of England accounts administered by a Tripartite Gold Commission set up in 1947. The FO said yesterday it had "all been spoken for", but its release awaited a resolution of a dispute with Albania, which is due some of the money. Albania is refusing to compensate Britain for the mining of two warships in the Corfu Channel in 1946.

Move over Madonna, Catherine Cookson goes pop



Dame Catherine... singing for the charts with My Way

Even her nearest and dearest were moved to tears when treated to a sneak preview of Dame Catherine Cookson's latest opus. Soon it could be you.

Dusted down after being discovered in the loft by her husband Tom and remixed at the Abbey Road studios made famous by the Beatles, the tape, entitled Her Way, will be released in November to tie in with her new novel.

Trumpet, it's a departure. And no-one is more surprised than her. "When he [Tom] played them, I thought, who is this woman? I couldn't believe it was my voice because it sounded too good." Dame Catherine said.

TV adaptations of her books, who provided musical backing to her vocals. Ray Marshall, producer of the TV films, said: "The tapes were very basic. Colin messed around with them and we had a sneak preview at Dame Catherine's 90th birthday party. It was quite something, it had a lot of people in tears and was very moving."

Called Falling Leaves, it was inspired by a leaf falling outside the window of her home in Jesmond, Newcastle, as a bad mood was lifted by children's television programmes.

Inside: Loyalists are threatening to kill businessmen in the Irish republic after a Protestant farmer was evicted three weeks ago. 3

World News: Warlords have imposed Sharia law in Mogadishu to bring a harsh order to the violent streets. Thieves face amputation. 6

Finance: Fledgling small companies are struggling to raise capital as City fund managers panic over the Morgan Grenfell affair. 11

Sport: Nasser Hussain emerged as a future captain of England when he was named deputy skipper to Mike Atherton for the winter tours. 16

Comment and Letters 6; Obituaries 10; Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

The Guardian International Umbrella advertisement with an image of an umbrella and text: 'Protect yourself from the elements with the stylish Guardian International umbrella.'

Order form for the umbrella: 'To place your order please fill in the form below and send it to: Guardian International Office, PO Box 365, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 2NA, UK'.



Farmer Eric Graham's father-in-law, former Presbyterian Moderator Rodney Sterritt, during the eviction: 'It's a very trying time' PHOTOGRAPH BY TREVOR MORRICE



Eric Graham's father, Bob, with whom the evicted family are staying near their former home

"We are a peaceful family, we want nothing to do with threats. We have never been interested in politics and have no connections with loyalist paramilitaries. These threats will not help our situation."

Eric Graham, evicted Protestant farmer

UFF issues dairy farm death threats

David Sharrock on a cross-border campaign launched after Protestant's eviction in republic



LOYALIST paramilitaries are threatening to kill businessmen and police officers in the Irish republic and poison food products on supermarket shelves after the eviction of a Protestant and his family from the state's largest farm.

The highly unusual cross-border intervention has been made by the Londonderry brigade of the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) three weeks after the Graham family was evicted from the Grianan estate in Co Donegal for failing to make their mortgage repayments.



Managing director John Keon, who received a death threat

A 72-hour UFF deadline to a number of people expires today. Yesterday Mr Keon said the threats were being taken seriously. He was contacted by a man calling himself David Savage, who told him to listen very carefully before warning him of the danger of proceeding with the purchase of the estate.

The brigade said its threat was issued in support of Protestant farmers in Burnfoot who, it claimed, had been unable to harvest crops due to the security presence.

The UFF's North Antrim and Londonderry brigade said it would take action against them unless the farm was vacated and negotiations were reopened with Eric Graham, his wife Charis and their five children.

The UFF stressed that the Graham family had not called on them to intervene. Nobody from the family, who are staying with Eric's father Bob at his home near their former farm, was available for comment yesterday.

Earlier this week Eric Graham said: "We are a peaceful family, we want nothing to do with threats. We have never been interested in politics and have no connections with loyalist paramilitaries. These threats will not help our situation."

The Londonderry UFF threat also casts doubt on the continued participation of the Ulster Democratic Party in the Stormont talks. The UDP has links with the UFF, a *nom de guerre* used by the Ulster Defence Association.

King steps into child sex crisis

THE king of Belgium last night stepped into the burgeoning political crisis engulfing his country in the wake of increasingly sordid revelations about child sex and political corruption.

King Albert II's unprecedented plea for urgent reform of the judiciary followed the arrests of 23 people — 11 of them police officers, including three detectives — as part of the interlinked investigation into vehicle crime, child abduction and paedophilia.

Alcopops cost Babycham dear

SALES of Babycham, one of the country's most famous tipplers, have tumbled 60 per cent in two months, the apparent victim of the phenomenal growth in the sale of alcopops. Now its owners admit its future is under review.

Clark, the manufacturer of Babycham. Combined sales of alcopops have raced from a standing start to an annual £500 million. Matthew Clark suffered something of a hangover after it conceded profits would be "materially affected".

The machine confirmed there had been two winners of the \$32 million jackpot. Even then, Post insists he was less than ecstatic. "If you look at the pictures you won't see a smile on my face. It didn't feel right."

Ian Katz, G2 cover story

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Dixons
There's a great deal going on

Sixteen Hackney councillors quit party over inquiry into child abuse claims after long-running row

Split rocks Labour council

Sarah Boseley

SIXTEEN Labour members of Hackney council resigned from the party yesterday claiming that the council leadership's proposals for an inquiry into the activities of Mark Trotter, an alleged paedophile who ran a children's home in the London borough, were grossly inadequate.

The walk-out by a band who have been at odds with the council's Labour old guard over issues of corruption and mismanagement for more than a year, will embarrass the national party, whose officials in Waltham Road have aligned themselves with the other faction.

The Labour rebels allege that maladministration, corruption, and secrecy have been endemic in the council for years. Although their figurehead is a former head of the Inner London Education Authority, Gerry Ross, a Hackney councillor for 30 years, many of the rebels were only elected in 1994.

Labour Party officials last night called on them to resign their seats. "These councillors have failed the people who elected them," said Terry Ashton, general secretary of the Greater London Labour Party. He accused them of playing politics with the Trotter affair.

Labour nationally has tried hard to suppress the divisions in Hackney. Five of the rebels were barred in July from holding council office after an inquiry into allegations that the group, referred to then as the Manifesto Group, were a party within a party.

People in the borough," said Mr Ashton. "Councillor Ross and his colleagues have instead chosen to play their own selfish political games."

News in brief

Spanish fishermen face 'tough battle'

THE multi-million pound claim by the Spanish owners of 97 UK-registered trawlers for compensation from the Government over its fishing policy faces a difficult passage, a High Court judge warned yesterday.

Anonymity for abuse victims

VICTIMS of sexual and physical abuse, and their alleged attackers, may be allowed to speak anonymously to the tribunal investigating incidents at council-run children's homes in North Wales. The judicial inquiry yesterday held its first public session with a pledge that witnesses should be able to give evidence without fear or embarrassment.

Parents sue over death

THE parents of a girl who died after a heart operation went wrong said yesterday they would sue Great Ormond Street children's hospital, London. Six-year-old Debbie Jenkins, from Sprowston, Norfolk, died after a balloon being used inside a catheter burst during the operation.

Radio 3 marks 50 years

RADIO 3 is to mark its 50th anniversary with a new production of George Bernard Shaw's play, *Man and Superman*, the first drama to be broadcast on the station. The original production went out on the Third Programme on October 1, 1946.

Girl remembers killer

A NINE-YEAR-OLD girl who survived a frenzied attack which left her mother and sister dead has regained her memory of the attack, police said yesterday.

Rastafarian turns to BNP for help in move to Africa

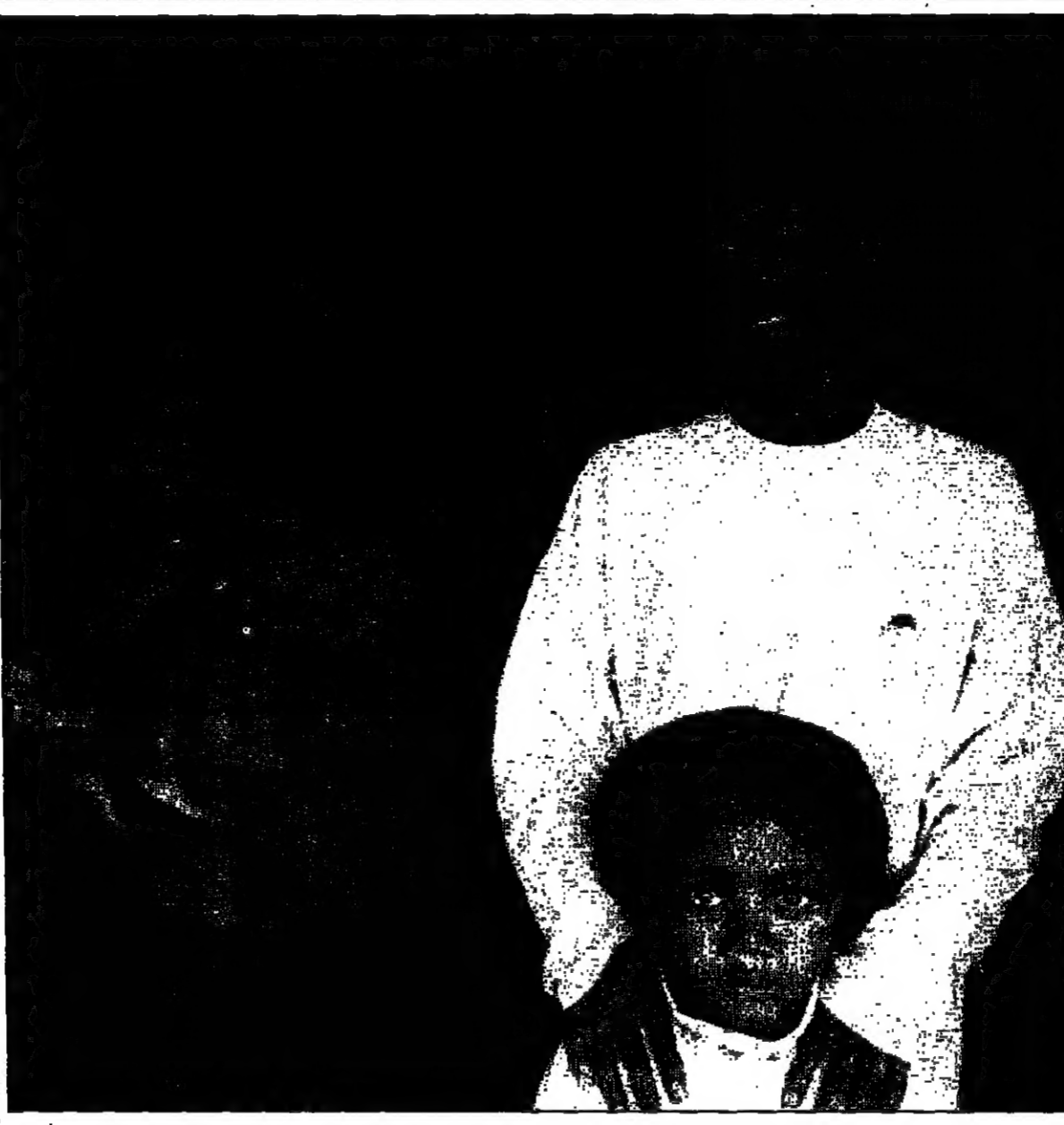
Vivek Chaudhary

ARCHE O'Brien has a dream — to live in Africa, he says, of all black people. But getting there from his home in Edmonton, north London, has proved something of a problem for the Rastafarian, who approached several black organisations and his local MP Bernie Grant, only to be told he could not get any money to relocate his family.

Mr O'Brien said the BNP advised him to write to the Home Secretary, and sent him details about the Government's repatriation scheme.

So Mr O'Brien, aged 26, has enlisted the help of the far-right British National Party (BNP) in his quest to live in Africa, preferably Ghana, where he plans to set up a development centre, build houses and teach "Africans at home and abroad about their cultural heritage".

Mr O'Brien, an unemployed chef born in Bermuda and living in London for the past two years with his wife and two children, said: "I approached the BNP because there was nobody else who wanted to help me. They have been very supportive. In fact, they've been more helpful than most black people. They have listened to me and said they would write letters to the Government and other organisations. I have realised we are both on the same track."



Archie O'Brien and his family... 'the BNP have been more helpful than most black people' PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Prince urged to clarify views on Church and faith

Leading churchman calls on future monarch to end confusion over beliefs

Vivek Chaudhary

THE Prince of Wales must clarify his views on Christianity and the role of the Church of England in order to end the confusion surrounding his religious beliefs, a senior member of the Church said yesterday.

Charles was to become king then his position as Supreme Governor of the Church of England might become titular rather than active. However, others within the Church have defended the prince, claiming that his belief in Christianity is "as strong as ever".



George Austin... 'time to end ambiguity'

Mr Austin added that the prince also needed to clarify statements that he has made earlier, saying that as king and head of the Church of England he wanted to be seen as "defender of faith" rather than as "defender of the faith".

He said: "If the prince is saying that all people have a right to practise their faith, then that's fine. But if he is saying that all faiths are equal then that's unacceptable. As Christians we can't say that our faith is the same as others."

Mr James reserved his criticisms for Humphrey Carpenter, author of Lord Runcie's biography. He said: "I object to the way it was written and there was a failure to carry out proper research."

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'Tarka' dunes lose nature reserve status in cows row

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

ENGLAND'S largest area of sand dunes yesterday became the first site to have its status as a National Nature Reserve removed, after a row between its owners and English Nature.

Sir George Christie, owner of Branton Burrows in north Devon, is unhappy with the way English Nature have been managing the site, and under present legislation English Nature cannot insist on managing it.

Although the 12,000-acre site which attracts 50,000 visitors a year was made famous as the setting for the Tarka the Otter book, animals are now the problem in the shape of cows allowed to graze there. David Townsend, for English Nature, said: "We need to put a few cattle and sheep on the area to keep down the scrub and coarse grass. This allows wild flowers to flourish... but they will disappear unless the management is properly conducted."

However, Raymond Coldwell, agent for the estate, said: "We want to conserve the Burrows as the Christie family has done successfully for four centuries."

"We do not want non-indigenous cattle grazing the dunes with unknown results. It could amount to vandalism of such a splendid asset to the British Isles."

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NOW WE'RE TALKING PENSIONS

July 1996

British Association science festival in Birmingham

Scientists aim to 'talk' to coma patients

Tim Radford Science Editor

ELECTRONIC engineers and neuroscientists will next year begin using new techniques to try to "talk" to patients in deep coma in British hospitals. Electrodes which can read electrical signals of one millionth of a volt in sites in the brain linked with finger movements will discover whether people with brain injuries are truly unconscious, or awake but helpless.

They will ask victims unable to move a finger whether they can think about moving a finger, and will "read" the answer in a surge in the brain. The research, based on neural network computers, could help produce wheelchairs which paraplegics can control merely by power of thought, or ejector seats which will operate even when the pilot is pinioned by the forces of an aircraft plummeting out of control.

That might be five or 10 years in the future, but in the meantime the technique could be used to assess patients in a comatose or near-comatose state. The first tests would be on patients known to be conscious but unable to move much more than a finger. The researchers would then have to settle the ethical questions involved in experimenting on people in apparently deep coma.

"There are a lot of people in hospitals round the world who have had severe brain injury and who have had life support. They may eventually come out of their coma, and tell of a nightmare situation of being relatively conscious of their surroundings but utterly unable to communicate in any way," he said.

The research has defence implications. "The US has a large project which has been running for a decade. In the early days they were looking at implanting electrodes inside a soldier's or a fighter pilot's brain, and having a jack-plug on the neck. Unfortunately a lot of these people contracted meningitis."



Bona fide... Musical archaeologist Graeme Lawson, who has been trying to recreate prehistoric sounds, blows on a replica flute formed from a sheep bone. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Waking dreams 'behind claims of alien kidnap'

ALIEN abduction — which 4 million Americans believe they have suffered — could simply be modern versions of old myths, a psychologist told the festival yesterday, writes Tim Radford.

Little green men have more to do with waking dreams than extraterrestrial forces, said Susan Blackmore, of the University of the West of England. She has been researching sleep paralysis, a condition which was necessary "because otherwise you would act out your dreams."

Early woman walked tall 3½m years ago

PREHISTORIC woman was no slouch, she walked upright, scientists announced yesterday, writes Jane Aldred.

The question of whether our early ancestors walked on two legs or four has been one of the major controversies of evolutionary studies. Now researchers at Liverpool university have designed a computer model to demonstrate how a 3.6 million-year-old fossil from east Africa, called Lucy, would have walked.

Jail population soaring

THE jail population is rising so rapidly that a new prison is needed every three weeks, the director general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, warned yesterday.

The 1,000-month increase in the prison population raised the risk of again using expensive police cells and the return to "slopping out" eliminated only six months ago, he told a Howard League conference in Oxford. Despite the early release last month of 541 inmates serving consecutive sentences, the jail population last Friday stood at 66,150 — 10 per cent higher than a year ago.

The increase is being fuelled by crown courts sending more serious offenders to prison and for longer periods. The Prison Service expects the crunch time to come early next year. Mr Tilt said: "I do not know how we are going to get through January to March next year. There is a serious risk of resorting to hugely expensive police cells at that point."

Number up as lottery tickets point finger at criminals

BUYING a lottery ticket can win you millions, but if you are a criminal it may also land you in jail.

The small pink slips have helped police forces destroy bogus alibis and increase the chance of conviction. Camelot, the lottery organiser, helps police "on a daily basis" to investigate crimes by breaking false alibis. A code on each ticket identifies where it was bought and the precise time and date. Possession of a ticket is not proof of purchase, but Camelot said yesterday that police had found the information invaluable in numerous cases.

Data challenge to BT

A RADICAL challenge to British Telecom's control over directory inquiries information was launched by a German software firm yesterday, amid claims that it may breach data protection regulations and allow subscribers' home addresses to be traced more easily.

Topware CD Service, based in Mannheim, is offering the contents of every UK telephone book on a single CD-ROM disk. The program, costing £19.95, will enable users to carry out reverse searches, typing in telephone numbers and retrieving names and addresses. Lists of residents of entire streets or buildings, matched to their telephone numbers, can also be compiled.

BT said last night it was seeking legal advice about infringement of its copyright, while Ofcom, the telecom regulator, said the product undermined industry guidelines. The Data Protection Registrar's office is investigating. Topware, which unveiled its UK-Info disk during this week's European Computer Trade Show at Olympia, London, said it was prepared to fight a legal action, and claimed it had won similar cases in Germany and the US.

Advertisement for Netcom. The main headline reads: "The Government says our beef is safe to eat. Find out what the French, Germans and Americans think." Below this is a large image of a cow. To the right of the image is the Netcom logo and contact information. At the bottom, there is a coupon for a free trial and a form for requesting the trial.

Fragmented text from the left edge of the page, including "British fishermen", "tough battle", "mity for abuse victims", "ts sue over death", "3 marks 50 years", "members killer", "ENSIONS", "I THAT HARD DO", "828 525", "ENSIONS".

IRAQ CRISIS: Kurdistan Democratic Party gains upper hand • US intelligence admits plot against Saddam failed



A Kurdish peshmerga loyal to the KDP celebrates victory as he enters Dukan on a truck after the northern Iraqi town was captured from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan

Iraq executes CIA-backed dissidents

Jeffrey Smith in Washington
MORE than 100 Iraqi dissidents and military officers associated with a CIA-financed effort to topple the Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, were arrested and executed this summer by Iraqi security agents who had penetrated the group, according to United States officials. Dissidents and members of the targeted organisation...

The killings are a setback for US hopes of toppling Saddam's regime
The group claimed that "in addition to civilian elements, brothers in the Army's Air Force were arrested as well as elements from special security forces, and other heroes from the armed forces."

Convoy rides into fearful city

Chris Nuttall in Sulaymaniyah sees a temporary exodus sparked by memories of Saddam's forces

EVERYONE wanted to know if the Iraqis were coming as we drove into this northern Iraqi city yesterday morning, ahead of a long convoy of victorious peshmergas of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). Rumours had swept Sulaymaniyah hours before it fell that President Saddam Hussein's forces were on their way, causing an exodus of tens of thousands. Memories of the sack of Sulaymaniyah five years ago, and the pur-

The traffic spanned the road, as there was nothing coming out of the city. The convoy blared horns as it entered Sulaymaniyah. Children stepped into the road to hand the fighters yellow flowers and bang on their bonnets. Off the main highway the town was silent, with most residents locked up indoors or fled to the border. They gradually emerged as it became apparent that Saddam Hussein was not involved. Hundreds returned from the border throughout the day, and the KDP leader, Massoud Barzani, arrived to announce a general amnesty for PUK members. Aid workers said the town had fallen on Monday night in less than an hour, with the only fighting reported at the crossing near the town of Penjwin. Aid workers described the situation as tense, with heavily armed PUK men among those desperate to leave. No water supplies or sanitation facilities were available and people lay wounded on stretchers. Some families were camping in minefields. "This is in one of the most heavily mined areas in the country and I expect there will be some mine injuries," said Ian Wilderspin of the Save the Children Fund.

India defiant as UN prepares to vote on nuclear test ban treaty

Mark Tran in New York

AS THE United Nations prepared yesterday to approve the draft global nuclear test ban treaty, India dismissed it as a "worthless piece of paper". The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which would permanently bar all nuclear explosions, is expected to be ready for a formal signing when world leaders gather at the UN for its annual session later this month. But last night's General Assembly debate was rendered virtually meaningless by India's continued opposition to the treaty on the grounds that it is discriminatory against the nuclear have-nots.

India's ambassador to the UN, Prakash Shah, argued that computer simulation and laser tests could "open the way to fourth-generation nuclear weapons testing even without explosive testing". He said that he was relevant today and to achieve its intended purpose, the CTBT should have banned not only test explosions but all nuclear tests which could lead to development of nuclear weapons. Iran expressed similar reservations but, in a surprise move, supported the resolution.

'Sadly, it will be passed but only to remain a worthless piece of paper'

CTBT by the assembly "should herald a new dawn in the history of the quest for nuclear disarmament." Instead a dark sun has appeared over the skies of South Asia. The challenge posed by our neighbour is not only to the CTBT. It is a challenge to the international consensus for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The General Assembly vote follows India's decision last

month to block the treaty's adoption at the Geneva conference. Australia made the imaginative move of bringing the treaty to the UN — a tactic never before used to win adoption of a key arms control treaty. Israel was a co-sponsor of the resolution, causing many Arab countries to come on board. British diplomats said

efforts would be made to persuade India to sign, perhaps in the form of some regional agreement to allow its security concerns. The hope is that many countries will sign the treaty in the following months, putting pressure on India to join the club. But the Indian foreign secretary, Salman Haider, told a news conference that New Delhi would not give up its nuclear option even if the

News in brief

Burundi archbishop 'murdered by Hutus'

HUTU rebels murdered the Roman Catholic archbishop of Burundi and three other people in an ambush on his car, the army said yesterday, citing witnesses who saw his body. A spokesman said Archbishop Joseph Ruhuna, Burundi's most senior Catholic cleric and a member of the Tutsi minority, was killed on the way to Gitega, in the centre of the country, on Monday.

A Burundian nun and two unidentified people were also killed. Three people travelling with them were missing. The car was ambushed at Murongwe, three miles north of Bugendana village, in an area described by aid workers as a Hutu rebel stronghold. In July the archbishop, aged 63, was booted at a funeral for Tutsi massacre victims in Bugendana when he said there were extremists

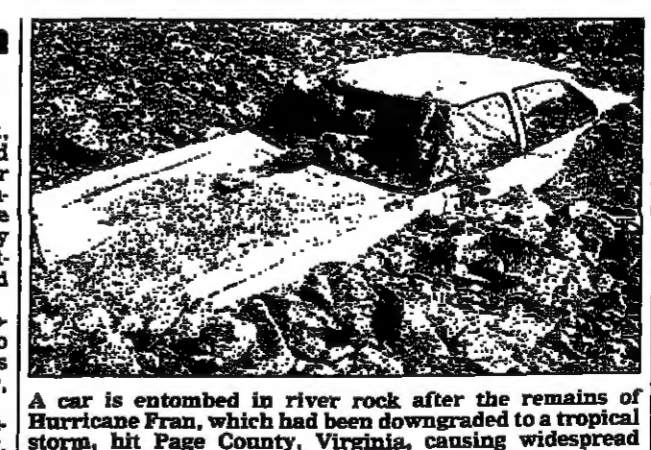
Hawaii court considers ban on gay marriage

A COURT in Hawaii yesterday began hearing arguments about the legality of same-sex marriage, with the onus on state lawyers to justify banning such unions, writes Mark Tran in New York. Deploying testimony from child psychologists, the state will argue that a man and wife are best suited to the development needs of a child. But legal experts expect the judge to rule in favour of Joseph Melillo and Patrick Lagon and two other gay couples who initiated the case in 1991.

In 1983, Hawaii's supreme court ruled that the ban violated the state's constitution, and called on the authorities to justify the prohibition in court. The case has created repercussions that have reached Washington, coincidentally yesterday, the Senate was due to vote on — and expected to approve — legislation which deprives gay couples of many of the civil advantages of marriage by withholding federal tax, pension, health and other benefits from them. The bill, already passed by the House of Representatives, would also allow states to ignore same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. President Bill Clinton has said he will sign it into law.

Ailing Yeltsin loosens grip

THE Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, has handed the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, partial control of key ministries as he prepares for heart surgery but kept the nuclear "red button", the Kremlin said yesterday. Mr Yeltsin's decision appeared designed partly to curb the ambitions of his national security adviser, Alexander Lebed. Mr Yeltsin's press secretary, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, said that senior ministers would report directly to Mr Chernomyrdin and, if necessary, he could summon the newly formed Defence Council of ministers and General Lebed. Mr Yeltsin, aged 65, is to undergo heart surgery at the end of the month. — Reuter.



A car is entombed in river rock after the remains of Hurricane Fran, which had been downgraded to a tropical storm, hit Page County, Virginia, causing widespread flooding. About 13ins of rain were dumped on headwaters in the Shenandoah National Park in one day. Meanwhile, five people were killed and four were missing yesterday after Hurricane Hortense pounded Puerto Rico with 18ins of rain, backing out most of the island, sending rivers over their banks and washing away cars. A two-year-old boy died in a mudslide in the south-western community of Guanica. Maritime police were trying to rescue 11 people spotted floating down the Guamaní river in their house. PHOTOGRAPH: CATHY KUSHNER

Sudan has helping hand from Iran

Shyam Bhatia in Amman

IRAN has offered to help Sudan break out of its international isolation by providing economic and humanitarian aid to the Islamic military government of General Omar Hassan al-Bashir. Four Iranian Hercules C130 transport aircraft are already being used as an air bridge between Tehran and Khartoum, and Arab diplomatic sources say they have been carrying food, medical supplies and radar equipment as part of an aid package agreed with the Sudanese government. Inevitably, the sources say, the Iranian aid will help the Sudanese army prosecute its war against anti-government rebels in the south. But Tehran Radio yesterday described the air bridge as "tangible evidence of the strategic importance of Sudan ... to Iran in its international struggle against the [United States] and its followers in the region". The US has accused both Iran and Sudan of supporting Islamic terrorists. Last April, the United Nations Security

Council imposed diplomatic and travel sanctions on Sudan after Khartoum refused to hand over three men suspected of trying to assassinate the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak. Last Sunday, the Iranian president, Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani, arrived in Khartoum on a two-day visit to consolidate ties between the two countries. Iranian officials accompanying the president said the trip was to "lay the cornerstone of a new and strong alliance to confront US

attempts to impose its hegemony on the Arab and Muslim world". It is a measure of the importance Tehran attaches to its developing ties with Sudan that Mr Rafsanjani was accompanied by 300 political and military advisers. At the end of the visit, Sudanese officials also disclosed that the Iranian president's brother, Mahmoud, would head a task force to oversee joint projects between the two countries. The Rafsanjani visit coincides with reports of further

Tehran brokers border deal

SUDAN and Uganda have agreed to a clampdown on rebel activity around their mutual borders and to set up a team of foreign observers to monitor the situation. The agreement, which is part of a deal to restore diplomatic relations brokered by the Iranian president, Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani, means the Liberation Army (SPLA) in southern Sudan and the Lord's Resistance

Army in northern Uganda will no longer be able to take refuge across the border. Under the deal, Sudan, Uganda and Iran will hold meetings every six months, alternating between the three capitals, to follow up the agreement. Their representatives will gather in Uganda in December to decide the terms of reference and the rights of the control team. — Reuter.

Former border guards jailed

Six former East German border commanders were yesterday convicted in a Berlin court of overseeing the killing of citizens who tried to flee to West Germany, and were sentenced to up to six and a half years in jail. All six had been accused of enforcing the shooting of would-be escapees from 1979 to 1989, when the Berlin Wall fell. — AP.

Sheep ship sinks

A ship, abandoned by its crew after it caught fire with 67,000 sheep aboard, is now believed to have sunk off the east coast of Africa, Australian officials said yesterday. — AP.

Missing history

More than 250 valuable manuscripts dating to the ninth century were found missing in Russia's largest library when it checked its collection for the first time in 20 years. A spokeswoman said it is too early to say whether they have been stolen or misplaced. — AP.

Arafat hangs up

Yasser Arafat has barred officials in the Palestinian Authority he heads from making overseas calls from their office and mobile phones after receiving a phone bill for millions of pounds, according to an Authority source. — AP.

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حکمان الکحل



The easy part... José-Maria Olazabal has no pain hitting his golf shots but in between suffers agony from arthritis for which he has yet to find a cure

Olazabal walking a tightrope of pain

David Davies remembers an unhappy anniversary of a Master golfer in torment

ALONGSIDE the 7th fairway at the Royal San Sebastian Golf Club there is, among the tall trees, a magnificent new house of understated opulence. By the standards of Fuenterrabia, the village that houses the golf club, it is a palace. Sadly for the last 13 months it has become Fortress José-Maria Olazabal.

This week is the anniversary of the last time the 1992 US Masters champion touched a golf club in anger. A year ago he was playing in the Trophée de la Ville de Biarritz when the problem that has been troubling him for more than nine months finally became too much to bear. He would play well for 10 to 12 holes, be well under par and then ruin everything by dropping shot after shot as his concentra-

tion was destroyed by the sheer pain in his feet. He had rheumatoid arthritis, was forced there and then to drop out of the Ryder Cup team and has not played competitively since. Now there is considerable doubt as to whether he will play tournament golf again. Certainly he has no intention of resuming his career in the foreseeable future, apart from a possible appearance in the Perrier Pairs competition on October 17-20 in Bordeaux, in which, because it counts neither for Ryder Cup or Volvo rankings points, he would be able to use a motorised buggy.

It is not the shots but walking between them for four to five hours that becomes unbearable. He has spent the last year practising almost daily at the driving range at San Sebastian, sometimes staying for three to four hours. Then he will retreat to the putting green that lies beside his parents' home, a 25-year-old Basque farmhouse, overlooking the 9th green. Twenty paces from the putting green and he is at the kitchen table, for lunch, for dinner, whatever. In his formative years he spent hours after hours on that practice green, learning the short-game skills that made him the most formidable exponent of that part of the game since another Spaniard from just down the road, Severiano Ballesteros.

Now he is back there, chipping and putting between treatments, not knowing when, if ever, he will go back on Tour. "He has been at his worst this year during the majors," said his manager Sergio Gomez. "He knows he can win them and cannot bear the thought that he is not there."

To get there Olazabal has tried all sorts of treatment and been able to afford the world's finest specialist consultants. He was told by the Mayo Clinic in America last September that he would be reasonably fit again in five to six months, a deadline long since passed. As conventional medicine has failed to find a cure, Gomez and Olazabal are looking elsewhere. He has received thousands of letters from the world's leading doctors, all of whom have recommended diets, has drunk special mineral water from Scotland and recently went to Germany for a fitting for a pair of special shoes.

"We have tried almost everything," said Gomez, "and as a last resort we might go to what people call charlatans." He means those people, like faith healers, who work outside regular medicine. "We know people who have been healed," he said, "even of arthritis. There is nothing we are not going to try."

Doncaster runners and riders with form guide

1.30 Out West	3.10 Russian Steers
2.00 GORADIM (new)	3.20 New Iris
2.20 GORADIM (new)	4.10 Lago di Varano (nb)
2.30 GORADIM (new)	4.40 Checco Flyer

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2.30 GORADIM (new)	4.40 Checco Flyer

Epsom

1.30 Out West	3.10 Russian Steers
2.00 GORADIM (new)	3.20 New Iris
2.20 GORADIM (new)	4.10 Lago di Varano (nb)
2.30 GORADIM (new)	4.40 Checco Flyer

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Exeter (N.H.)

1.30 Out West	3.10 Russian Steers
2.00 GORADIM (new)	3.20 New Iris
2.20 GORADIM (new)	4.10 Lago di Varano (nb)
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SPORTS NEWS 13

Racing

Russian Snobs can keep Cecil in second place

NEWMARKET trainers look set to dominate the first day of the Doncaster St Leger meeting when Henry Cecil will be trying to whittle away Saeed bin Suroor's narrow lead in the prize-money table.

Cecil, with win and place money of £1,234,000, trails by just over £17,000, but could go top if today's results go his way.

Out West (1.30) should get him off to a good start. The filly is not easy to assess, having won very easily from modest opposition at Beverley on her debut, but the time was good and the 5lb she receives from Benny The Dip could prove decisive.

In the following Mallard Handicap, Cecil's Corradini (2.00) looks one of the day's best bets after an unlucky run in the Ebor at York.

Keiren Fallon had trouble getting a clear run on Corradini, who came to the scene too late when third to Clerkenwell. Today's slightly longer trip will suit him and he probably has most to fear from the evergreen Highflyer, who even at 10 is still a force to be reckoned with.

The key contest for Cecil, however, is the Stomax Bitter Park Hill Stakes in which his unbeaten filly Eva Luna is taken on by Saeed bin Suroor's Russian Snobs.

Eva Luna is a four-year-old but has run only twice, winning the Galtes Stakes at York, recently in controversial circumstances, this being the race which earned Pat Eddery a two-day whip ban.

She was all out to hold Time Allowed by a head then and meets her victim on 2lb worse terms now.

As Time Allowed had been beaten in a Goodwood handicap previously the form does not look up to that of Russian Snobs, who was runner-up in last year's Irish Oaks and third in the Yorkshire Oaks three weeks ago.

That, at least, was the position in which she passed the post at York, being disqualified later after Frankie Dettori was found guilty of irresponsible riding.

Beaumont made, second to Clerkenwell, the Ebor, is an interesting runner, but I rely on classic form in making Russian Snobs (3.10) the selection, and if she wins Cecil will be pretty well back where he started.

There could easily be more success for Newmarket in the shape of John Gosden's Catechism (2.38) and Michael Jarvis's Blue Iris (3.40).

A filly by Jarvis's Wokingham winner Totom, Blue Iris turned in a smart handicap performance at York when following Cian Chie's bid to land a four-timer. She gave Cian Chief 20lb and beat him a comfortable length and a half.

She steps into listed company in today's Scarbrough Stakes, but on the evidence of that latest run is a notch above a handicapper.

Newmarket will probably field the favourite in the day's big betting event, the Tote Portland Handicap, in the shape of Cyranos's Lad, trained by Chris Dwyer, but this could be one for the north with Lago di Varano (4.10).

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EXETER

Evry earner
JENNELLE, trained by Chris Dwyer and ridden by Jo Hurrey, earned £2,635 when she finished five behind the hot favourite, Pas de Group 3, in yesterday's Group 3 Prix d'Arenberg at Evry.

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Soccer

Uefa Cup: First round, first leg: Newcastle 4, Halmstad 0

Keegan's men pass first European test

Michael Walker

NEWCASTLE United, inspired by Beardsley... The Toon Army, missing a battalion or two last night, took this as the signal for an imminent landslide...

to the ball and headed Newcastle one up... The Toon Army, missing a battalion or two last night, took this as the signal for an imminent landslide...



Crowded house... Ferdinand arrives fractionally before Halmstad's goalkeeper Nordberg to head Newcastle's first goal

Aston Villa 1, Helsingborg 1

Villa miss the Baltic boat

Ian Moffat

ASTON VILLA dipped their toes back into the waters of European football last night... Villa's reply was a neat move ending with Draper, looking industrious in mid-field...

they were knocked out of the competition by another unfancied side, Trabzonspor of Turkey... Villa's reply was a neat move ending with Draper, looking industrious in mid-field...

drove Villa continually forward but Powell was always a threat and when he was again offered a glimpse of the Villa goal, he shot just wide... Villa was denied a vital second goal when Ehlguu headed Draper's left-wing cross over the bar...

ing for cutting down Johnson in full stride... But while Villa displayed plenty of ambition, their final pass continued to let them down... Another managerless club Manchester City have failed in a second attempt to convince Sheffield United that Howard Kendall should be allowed to return to Maine Road...

Venables rules out Rangers

TERRY VENABLES has pledged his future to Portsmouth, ending speculation that he could return to Queens Park Rangers as manager... Venables' decision is likely to increase the chances of the Charlton manager Alan Curbishley moving to West London...

Leeds forget past and pin faith on Graham

Ian Ross finds the new man in the hot seat at Elland Road ready to stamp his authority

THE rehabilitation of George Graham began in earnest yesterday with his installation as the new manager of Leeds United... Graham's decision was hardly surprising, coming as it did a fortnight after he rejected the opportunity to become manager of Manchester City...

took over we looked at Howard Wilkinson's record and wanted to stick with him but it just didn't work out... Graham's decision was hardly surprising, coming as it did a fortnight after he rejected the opportunity to become manager of Manchester City...

Celtic 0, Hamburg 2

Head start for Hamburg

Dixon Blackstock

CELTIC'S European ambitions were dealt a shattering blow by a Hamburg side which has flopped in the German Bundesliga... Celtic worked hard to rally and Van Hooydonk looked the man most likely to restore morale...

looks to have put paid to Celtic's Uefa Cup hopes... Celtic worked hard to rally and Van Hooydonk looked the man most likely to restore morale...

it into the net. Celebrations were cut short, however, when the Italian referee spotted a flag and gave an offside decision... Celtic worked hard to rally and Van Hooydonk looked the man most likely to restore morale...

Brave Barry run out of puff and luck in Aberdeen

THE League of Wales champions Barry Town have had a full-time professional side for only a year and that just about summed up their first-leg display at Pittodrie... Barry refused to be over-whelmed when Stephen Glass chipped the Dons into the seventh-minute lead...

McLean quits Raith to unite with brother

TOMMY McLEAN resigned as manager of Raith Rovers yesterday a mere week after being appointed... McLean, who was in charge of Raith for only one match, last week's 4-1 mauling at home by Aberdeen...

Sport in brief

Cycling: Miguel Indurain lost 35sec to the overall leader Laurent Jalabert in yesterday's 96-mile fourth stage of the Tour de France... American Football: Green Bay crushed Philadelphia 39-13 in the first Monday night game at their Wisconsin home for 10 years...

Results

Table listing soccer results for various leagues including UEFA Cup, National League, and Scottish League.

Fixtures

Table listing upcoming soccer fixtures for various leagues including UEFA Cup, National League, and Scottish League.

A large advertisement for 'Teamtal' featuring a stylized logo and text. The logo includes the word 'Teamtal' and 'Independent news'. The text includes a phone number '0891 33 77' and a signature 'مكازم التال'.

Soccer

Champions League: group matches Juventus v Manchester United

United must pass the tactical test

David Lacey in Turin

IF MANCHESTER United are to take honours, as well as profits, from an international cash register...

bloody rule I couldn't do anything about" to leave out Schmeichel in Barcelona...

For United, winning the Cup Winners' Cup in 1991 proved a false dawn. Compared to what the European Cup has become this was a selling plaster...

Only last season United went out of the Uefa Cup early, losing to Rotor Volgograd on away goals...

While there is never a good time to face Italian holders of the world's most prestigious club trophy...

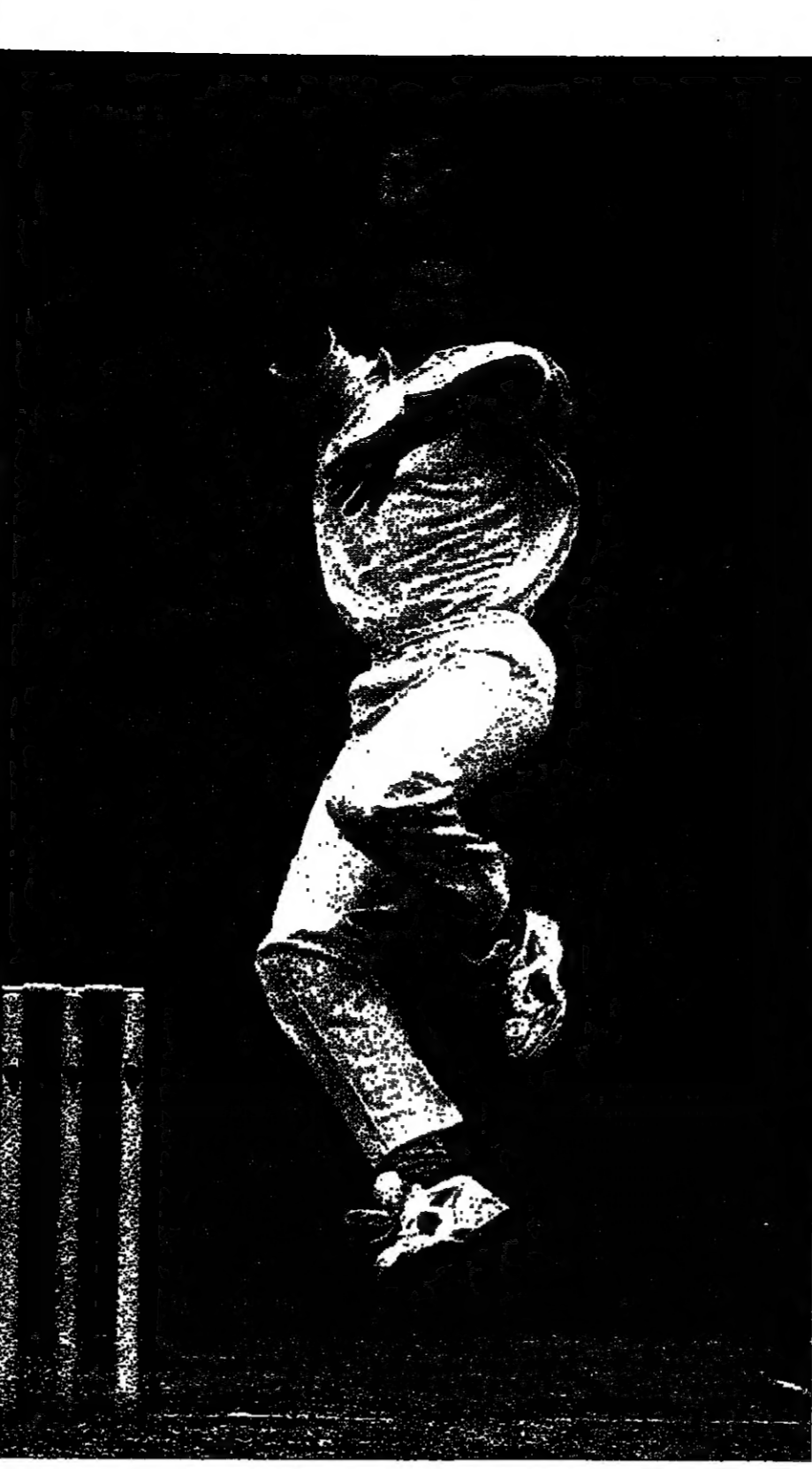
Ferguson will surely want to keep tonight's match as tight as the FA Cup final, when his team set out to stifle Liverpool's free-flowing game...

Ferguson's options are rather greater than they were two seasons ago, when he felt forced "by some stupid

Cricket

Mike Selvey on Illingworth's final England selections which include a senior tour for Silverwood and Irani and no place for Lewis

Grown-up Tufnell back in favour



Getting on with the job... Chris Silverwood reminds Illingworth of Statham

THE PRODIGAL son returns this winter but, if the England selectors are thinking of killing a fatted calf in Phil Tufnell's honour...

Tufnell but he has made an undeniable case for himself by taking 74 wickets for Middlesex this season...

from Middlesex, the assistant coach for the tour. More relevant seems to have been a glowing testimonial from Mike Gatting...

The squads

ENGLAND (to Zimbabwe and New Zealand): A. Atherton (capt), M. Hussey, G. Gooch, J. G. Laker, J. P. Crawley...

ENGLAND (to Australia): A. J. Hone, J. G. Laker, J. P. Crawley, G. Gooch, J. G. Laker, J. P. Crawley...

Grasshopper Zurich v Rangers

Three up front as Rangers go all out for first-leg goals

Patrick Glenn in Zurich

WALTER SMITH, emboldened by Rangers' 7-2 victory over Alania Vladikavkaz in the away leg of the qualifying round, is going for broke here in the opening match of the Champions League...

rest. We played a very attacking-minded side that night, with Paul Gascoigne, Ian Durrant and Charlie Miller in midfield...

McColt is nursing a hamstring "twak" which kept him out of Saturday's match at Motherwell but, if he proves unfit, another forward will replace him...

Grasshopper have two forwards, Kubilay Turkyilmaz and Viorel Moldovan, capable of inflicting damage on any opposition...

Team talk: The independent news and reports service. 0891 33 77+. Includes a list of football clubs and their scores.

Somerset ditch Cottam in rebuilding plan

David Foot

BOB COTTAM, Somerset's director of cricket, last night became a surprise victim of the county's plans to restructure and bring in a higher-profile coach...

officially "by mutual consent". He has been in charge at Taunton since 1992. After being linked with Yorkshire in the early summer...

be sounding out various overseas coaches, including their former South African opener Jimmy Cook. Attempts are also likely to be made to recruit Dermot Reeve as the dressing-room supremo...

Rugby Union

Wallabies jump gun on Baa-Baas

Robert Armstrong

ENGLAND, who are still trying to arrange a pre-Christmas Test against Australia, yesterday jumped the gun with a premature announcement that the two countries would meet at Twickenham on December 7...

Slam fixture might be accommodated but the difficulties were insurmountable. "Over 30,000 tickets have already been sold for the Barbarians' match at Twickenham...

Tennis

Rusedksi defies ground rules

David Irvine at Bournemouth

IT COULD hardly be called authentic clay-court tennis but few among the West Hants crowd cared less yesterday as Greg Rusedksi served, volleyed and smashed his way past Portugal's Bernardo Mota...

Dutchman's first singles win on the tour this year but, though deserved, it was a semi-finalist, he has not lasted more than two rounds at any tournament since the Seoul event in April...

to 75th in the ranking over the last 11 months. Apart from Nottingham, where he was a semi-finalist, he has not lasted more than two rounds at any tournament since the Seoul event in April...

Scoreboard

Table with multiple columns showing scores for various sports including AXA Equity & Law League, WARRICKSHIRE v ESSEX, and LANCASHIRE v WILTSHIRE.

Rugby League

Lindsay warns 'mavericks' over money

Paul Fitzpatrick

FUTURE distribution of the Murdoch millions will be the subject of heated debate at today's Rugby Football League council meeting in Leeds...

League clubs want bigger individual shares of the £87 million which News Corporation is to invest over five years. That would mean less for the First and Second Division clubs who, not surprisingly, are alarmed at the prospect...

which binds every club legally," added Lindsay, who predicts peace in our time. "I am confident we will achieve a peaceful solution to this squabble over money and that the game's wider interests will prevail over narrow club interests..."

Sheffield Eagles, meanwhile, have made an undisclosed cash offer for Iestyn Harris, Warrington's transfer-listed stand-off or full-back. An offer by Sheffield of cash plus players for the 29-year-old Harris, whose list price is £1,350,000, was rejected by Warrington last week...

